What Can I Do with a BFA in Studio Art?

This question comes up fairly frequently. Most people assume that if they want to have an art career at all that the best way to go is a degree in graphic design. While the graphic design industry does offer a lot of employment opportunities, it is not for everyone. Different artists have different talents and skill sets and the career path they choose should reflect their interests and passions, not necessarily where they feel that can make money. If you do something you love, then success will follow.

There are many careers that one can utilize a degree in studio art. These are a few possibilities.

If you choose to use your degree in Studio to focus on Industrial Design, you might pursue one of these:

- Package Designer
- Product Designer
- Toy Designer
- Furniture Designer
- Communications Designer
- Automotive Designer

If you choose to use your degree in Studio to focus on Fashion Design, you might consider becoming a Fashion Designer or Fashion Illustrator.

There are also a number of careers available for the Studio Artist in the entertainment and media industries:

- Art Director
- Cinematographer
- Computer Animator
- Special Effects Artist
- Scenery and Set Designer
- Costume Designer
- Make-up Artist
- Storyboard Illustrator
- Puppeteering/ Puppet Design
- Matte or Background Painter
- Editorial Art Director
- Editorial Illustrator
- Court Artist
- Book Designer
- Cartoonist/ Comic Strip Artist
- Political Cartoonist
- Medical or Technical Illustrator
Photojournalist/ Press Photographer  
Fashion Photographer  
Food and Product Photographer  
Portrait Photographer  
Architectural Photographer  
Audio-Visual Designer  
Law Enforcement Photographer  
Legal Photographer  
Medical Photographer  
Children’s Book Illustrator  
Caricaturist  
Science Fiction/ Fantasy Illustrator

The most obvious path to take with the Studio Art degree would be a career as a professional fine artist. This would also usually include a Master’s degree in the Studio art, which the BFA is specifically geared toward. Among those areas are:

Painter  
Sculptor  
Printmaker/ Poster Artist/ Lithographer  
Photographer  
Ceramicist  
Glass Artist  
Jewelry Designer  
Video or Installation Artist  
Enterameling and Metalwork Artist  
Fibers, Textiles and Weaving  
Mural Artist  
Collage Artist  
Conceptual Artist  
Public Artist/ Outdoor Sculptor  
Multimedia Artist

A studio degree can also assist one considering a career in the business of art, including:

Artist’s Agent  
Gallery Owner  
Art Critic  
Museum Director  
Curator  
Conservator and Restorer  
Art Archivist  
Display Designer  
Slide Librarian  
Exhibitions Coordinator
Art Consultant
Art Appraisal
Art Dealer/ Auctioneer
Art Authentication

The Degree is Studio Art can also dovetail nicely into a second major, either within Architecture, Interior Design, Art History or Art Education.

There are plenty of other areas as well where one could benefit from a Studio Art degree:

Floral Arranger/ Designer
Cake Decorator
Retail Display Designer
Antiques Dealer
Calligrapher
Sign Painter
Silk Screen Artist
Framing Shop

These are just a few of the possibilities to give you an idea of what the future might hold for those pursuing a Studio Art Degree